

COOKLEY & WALPOLE PARISH COUNCIL

A Meeting of the Parish Council was held on Tuesday, March 19th 2019 in the Pavilion, Walpole at 7-30pm.

Minutes:

Present:

Cllr. Z. Mair (Chairman); Cllr. D. Cask; Cllr. R. Chase; Cllr. N. Jarvis; Cllr. C. Northover; Cllr. M. Porter; Cllr. D. Whitwood and Cllr. J. Winter:

Also Present:

County and District Cllr. S. Burroughes (left 8-15pm) and Paul Widdowson (Clerk).

1) Apologies:

Cllr. A. Thomas (Vice-Chairman); Cllr. M. Wenham and Cllr. S. Moore;

2) To receive declarations of interest:

Cllr. Z. Mair and Cllr. M. Porter declared interests in CEA and Cookpole.

Cllr. N. Jarvis declared an interest in Cookpole.

Cllr. M. Porter declared an interest in the stone for the memorial in Item 11.

3) Requests for dispensations:

There were no requests for dispensation.

4) To receive a report from the County and District Councillor:

The Councillors noted the written reports from Cllr. S. Burroughes. Cllr. S. Burroughes said that this was his last report from Suffolk Coastal District Council (SCDC) as the new East Suffolk District Council will replace the council on April 1st 2019. He said that the last SCDC Meeting would be on March 28th 2019 and as the election for councillors does not take place until May 2nd, there would be a Shadow Council until the new councillors take office on May 6th. Cllr. S. Burroughes said that the new logo for the East Suffolk District Council cost £5000 and the press reports regarding the costs of the gathering to mark the end of SCDC were exaggerated.

Cllr. S. Burroughes said that Suffolk County Council (SCC) had passed the budget in February doing a deal with the Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB) whereby the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) are funding the health aspects of the CAB. CAB are also going to review their efficiency. Cllr. S. Burroughes also reported that the many more children and the number is rising are vulnerable and being put into care. He said 900 are now in the care of SCC and this is more than in the past. Cllr. Z. Mair remarked that she hoped that when these children leave the care home, they were not lured into gangs and drugs.

Cllr. M. Porter asked why the renovation of the Felixstowe Seafront Gardens had overspent by £1m. Cllr. S. Burroughes said that he would have to find out the answer.

Cllr. S. Burroughes said that he would be standing as a candidate for East Suffolk District Council but as the wards would be larger with more Parish Councils, Area forums were being looked at as a way where the Parish Councils could meet their District Councillors. He said that locality budgets would be larger and East Suffolk District Council would be a Housing Authority again as they would be building houses.

Finally, Cllr. S. Burroughes said that he would contribute some money to the River Blyth sign.

5) Public Session: Members of the public have fifteen minutes to ask questions on topics on the agenda.

There were no members of the public at the meeting.

6) To confirm the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on February 19th 2019:

The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on February 19th 2019 were agreed.

Proposer: Cllr. N. Jarvis:

Seconder: Cllr. R. Chase:

7) Flagship Affordable Homes:

Cllr. A. Thomas had given a written report but as she was not at the meeting, it was agreed to discuss this issue further when she was next at a meeting.

8) Sizewell C Consultation Response:

Cllr. Z. Mair said that Cllr. A. Thomas had written a response for Bramfield and Thorington Parish Council to send to the Sizewell C Consultation. Councillors were asked by the chair if they wished to add Cookley and Walpole Parish Council's name to this response as well. There was some discussion and comment and it was agreed to have the Cllr. A. Thomas' response emailed to all the councillors who by email could indicate their support of the Bramfield and Thorington Parish Council response.

Proposer: Cllr. R. Chase:

Seconder: Cllr. M. Porter:

9) Emergency Planning:

As Cllr. M. Wenham was not at the meeting, there was no report. It was agreed to take this item off the next Parish Council Meeting Agenda.

10) Defibrillator & Telephone Box:

Cllr. R Chase reported that the defibrillator will be delivered next Thursday. He said that he would contact Cllr. M. Porter as soon as possible afterwards so that he can contact Pearce and Kemp to install it. Cllr. C. Northover asked about the light in the telephone box. There was some discussion on the light and it was agreed to monitor its brightness and to review it in a few months.

11)War Memorial and the Village Green:

Cllr. Z. Mair said that the stone was very beautiful and too nice to have a plaque or any engravings put on it. She said that the names of the fallen should be engraved on a plaque and put on a post near the stone. She emphasised that the plaque nor the names of the fallen should be put on the stone. She wondered if a bench should be placed by the stone so that people could have a space for contemplation. Cllr. C. Northover thought that the plaque should be on the stone or else he wondered why the stone was on the Village Green. It was agreed to have a public meeting to look at the Council's plans and for the public to discuss it. Cllr. Z. Mair said that she would email some dates for a public meeting.

Finally it was noted that Cllr. M. Wenham was still investigating whether one of the fallen should be added to the Walpole list of the fallen.

12)Highways and Speeding:

It was reported that the Sign Indicator Device (SID) needed to have its battery charged. It was noted that it was on the bridge currently and Cllr. Z. Mair and Cllr. J. Winter would move it to opposite the Manse. It was commented that people drive too fast, the cutting back of the hedges on Halesworth Road had helped traffic much keep to their side of the road and that the road surface is very bad at the T Junction in the middle of Walpole.

13)River Blyth Sign:

It was agreed that this had been discussed earlier in Item 11 regarding the Village Green.

14)George Calver Trust:

Cllr. Z. Mair said that the Trust needed a new Treasurer and Chair and as the Parish Council was responsible for the charity, the councillors were responsible to find new people to fill these posts. She said that it was important to fill the posts because they are responsible for a considerable amount of money. Cllr. Z. Mair asked councillors to perhaps look out for suitable candidates who could come from as far north as Kessingland and as far south as Leiston. Cllr. D. Whitwood said that he would prefer the candidates to be from around Walpole whilst Cllr. J. Winter said that he had someone in mind.

15)Donations:

The following donations were agreed:

'Alzheimer's Society' (£50);
Age UK Suffolk (£25);
Disability Advice Service (East Suffolk) (£25);
East Anglia's Children's Hospices (£20);
East Anglian Air Ambulance (£75);
Halesworth Volunteer Centre (£35);
Halesworth Community Nursing Care Fund (£100);
Halesworth Free Car Park (£100)

19)Funeral Costs:

It was agreed to keep the same prices in 2019-2020 as for 2018-2019. However it was also agreed to review the price list in 2020 having researched over the next year prices in other cemeteries such as in Peasenhall.

20)Will Austin Contract:

It was agreed to renew the Contract from March 1st 2019 until February 29th 2020 with Will Austin at a fee of £1600.

Proposer: Cllr. M. Porter: Second: Cllr. R. Chase:

21)To agree Internal Control Reports:

The Internal Control Statement and Report was agreed.

Proposer: Cllr. Z. Mair: Second: Cllr. D. Whitwood:

22)To receive reports on the:

Footpaths:

It was reported that several bags of litter were picked up in a recent litter pick in Cookley. It was also noted that someone is running through Cookley picking up rubbish.

Trees:

There was no report.

Cemetery:

There was no report.

CEA & Allotments:

Cllr. Z. Mair said that the shed which was blown down was being refurbished to house a lawn mower and there are plans now to build a shelter for socialising.

External Meetings & Training:

It was agreed for the new council elected in May to look at their training needs.

23)To receive agenda items for the Parish Council Meeting to be held on April 23rd 2019:

It was agreed to take Emergency Planning off the agenda but to add the Church Wall.

The Meeting ended at 10pm.